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Docket No.: KCC-16,221

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lori Tassone HOLMES, et al.

Serial No.: 09/939,535

Filing Date: 24 August 2001

Title: THIN, HIGH CAPACITY MULTI-LAYER ABSORBENT CORE

Customer No. 35844

Confirmation No. 2474

Group No. 3761

Examiner: J. Stephens

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APR 08 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed 09 March 2004, Applicants respectfully elect the invention of Group I, drawn to an absorbent article. Claims 1-43 are included in Group I. Applicants further elect Species 2, wherein the lower layer has a density equal to the density of the upper layer. Species 2 includes Claims 26 and 43. This election is made without traverse. Applicants specifically reserve the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application.

Applicants further request amendment of the above-identified patent application as presented in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

March 31, 2004

3/31/04
Date

Michael J. Rauch
Signature

KCC-2084

MR/S